

## **Focus Area 16: Maternal, Infant, and Child Health**

**Objective 16-11a** targets a reduction in preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks gestation) to a rate of 7.6 per 100 live births (7.6 percent).

A total of 52,522 preterm live births of less than 37 weeks gestation were reported in 2000 at a rate of 9.9 percent based on data extracted from the Birth Statistical Master Files (Figure 16-11a, Table 16-11a). A total of 59,225 were reported at a rate of 10.8 percent in 2005, a statistically significant increase. California's preterm birth rates for infants less than 37 weeks gestation are significantly higher than the HP2010 target of 7.6 percent, and rates are increasing away from the target.

Data by race-ethnicity show that the highest preterm birth rates were found for African Americans/Blacks (15.6 percent in 2005), followed by American Indians/Alaska Natives (13.4 percent in 2005), Native Hawaiians/Other Pacific Islanders (11.7 percent in 2005), and Multiracials (11.3 percent in 2005). Preterm birth rates for Whites, Hispanics/Latinos, Asians, and Multiracials showed statistically significant increases from 2000 to 2005. This HP2010 objective was not being achieved for any racial or ethnic group as of 2005.

Preterm birth rates were highest for those under 15 years, although there was a significant decrease from 18.3 percent in 2000 to 15.9 percent in 2005. The next highest preterm birth rates were for women aged 35 years and older, who experienced a significant increase from 11.5 percent in 2000 to 12.9 percent in 2005. Women aged 20-24 and 30-34 also showed statistically significant increases in preterm birth rates between 2000 and 2005. The HP2010 objective of 7.6 percent was not being achieved for any maternal age group as of 2005.

Preterm birth rates for male infants were significantly higher than those for female infants in each year during the 2000-2005 period. The HP2010 objective was not being achieved for either gender of infants as of 2005.

For more information on preterm births in California, visit the Maternal and Child Health Branch Web site at:

<http://www.mch.dhs.ca.gov/>

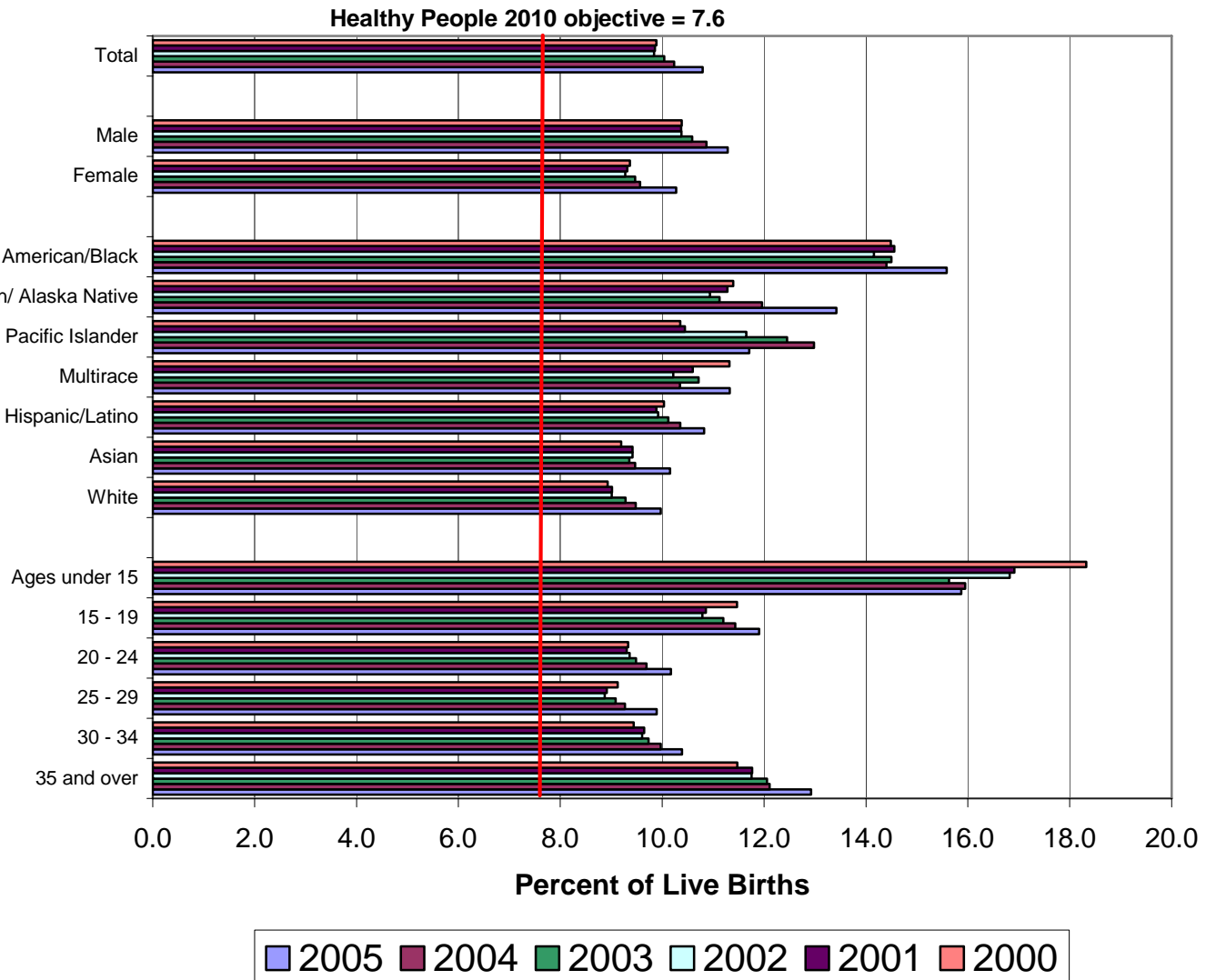
For more information on Healthy People 2010 objective 16-11a please visit:

[http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume2/16MICH.htm#\\_Toc494699661](http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume2/16MICH.htm#_Toc494699661)

and

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/html/tracking/od16.htm#riskfactors>

**Figure 16-11a**  
**Preterm Births (Less Than 37 Completed Weeks Gestation)**  
**California, 2000-2005**



**Table 16-11a: Preterm Births - Less Than 37 Completed Weeks Gestation  
California, 2000-2005**

HP2010 Objective 16-11a	2000					2001				
	Preterm Births <sup>1</sup>	Live Births <sup>2</sup>	Rate <sup>3</sup>	Lower C.I. <sup>4</sup>	Upper C.I. <sup>4</sup>	Preterm Births <sup>1</sup>	Live Births <sup>2</sup>	Rate <sup>3</sup>	Lower C.I. <sup>4</sup>	Upper C.I. <sup>4</sup>
<b>Healthy People 2010 Target</b>	<b>7.6</b>					<b>7.6</b>				
<b>Statewide Total</b>	52,522	531,285	9.9	9.8	10.0	51,974	527,371	9.9	9.8	9.9
<b>Race-Ethnicity of Mother</b>										
African American/Black	4,680	32,302	14.5	14.1	14.9	4,508	30,965	14.6	14.2	15.0
American Indian/Alaska Native	225	1,975	11.4	10.0	12.8	224	1,986	11.3	9.9	12.7
Asian	5,412	58,876	9.2	9.0	9.4	5,408	57,443	9.4	9.2	9.7
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	246	2,376	10.4	9.1	11.6	246	2,355	10.4	9.2	11.7
Hispanic/Latino	25,891	257,958	10.0	9.9	10.2	25,798	260,996	9.9	9.8	10.0
White	15,023	168,233	8.9	8.8	9.1	14,764	163,777	9.0	8.9	9.2
Multirace	708	6,254	11.3	10.5	12.1	677	6,388	10.6	9.8	11.4
<b>Maternal Age Group</b>										
Under 15	164	895	18.3	15.8	20.9	137	810	16.9	14.3	19.5
15 - 19	6,352	55,373	11.5	11.2	11.7	5,752	52,966	10.9	10.6	11.1
20 - 24	11,442	122,591	9.3	9.2	9.5	11,466	123,227	9.3	9.1	9.5
25 - 29	12,738	139,615	9.1	9.0	9.3	12,163	136,439	8.9	8.8	9.1
30 - 34	12,035	127,502	9.4	9.3	9.6	12,338	127,946	9.6	9.5	9.8
35 and over	9,791	85,309	11.5	11.3	11.7	10,118	85,983	11.8	11.6	12.0
<b>Sex of Child</b>										
Female	24,270	259,217	9.4	9.3	9.5	24,045	258,121	9.3	9.2	9.4
Male	28,248	272,061	10.4	10.3	10.5	27,924	269,237	10.4	10.3	10.5

SOURCE: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Statistical Master Files, 2000-2001.

NOTES: <sup>1</sup> Preterm births defined as live births of less than 37 completed weeks gestation (less than 259 days); records with missing gestational age and with gestational ages of 118 days or less are excluded.

<sup>2</sup> Live births among California residents; excludes fetal deaths.

<sup>3</sup> Rate per 100 live births (percent).

<sup>4</sup> Ninety-five percent confidence interval (95% C.I.)

**Table 16-11a: Preterm Births - Less Than 37 Completed Weeks Gestation, continued**  
**California, 2000-2005**

HP2010 Objective 16-11a	2002					2003				
	Preterm Births <sup>1</sup>	Live Births <sup>2</sup>	Rate <sup>3</sup>	Lower C.I. <sup>4</sup>	Upper C.I. <sup>4</sup>	Preterm Births <sup>1</sup>	Live Births <sup>2</sup>	Rate <sup>3</sup>	Lower C.I. <sup>4</sup>	Upper C.I. <sup>4</sup>
<b>Healthy People 2010 Target</b>	<b>7.6</b>					<b>7.6</b>				
<b>Statewide Total</b>	52,067	529,241	9.8	9.8	9.9	54,311	540,827	10.0	10.0	10.1
<b>Race-Ethnicity of Mother</b>										
African American/Black	4,220	29,806	14.2	13.8	14.6	4,236	29,211	14.5	14.1	14.9
American Indian/Alaska Native	215	1,966	10.9	9.6	12.3	223	2,004	11.1	9.8	12.5
Asian	5,592	59,376	9.4	9.2	9.7	5,755	61,525	9.4	9.1	9.6
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	281	2,411	11.7	10.4	12.9	300	2,409	12.5	11.1	13.8
Hispanic/Latino	26,089	263,022	9.9	9.8	10.0	27,298	269,691	10.1	10.0	10.2
White	14,551	161,470	9.0	8.9	9.2	15,121	162,920	9.3	9.2	9.5
Multirace	696	6,813	10.2	9.5	10.9	762	7,112	10.7	10.0	11.4
<b>Maternal Age Group</b>										
Under 15	125	743	16.8	14.1	19.5	111	710	15.6	13.0	18.3
15 - 19	5,417	50,200	10.8	10.5	11.1	5,524	49,330	11.2	10.9	11.5
20 - 24	11,521	123,056	9.4	9.2	9.5	11,741	123,815	9.5	9.3	9.6
25 - 29	12,181	137,236	8.9	8.7	9.0	12,767	140,556	9.1	8.9	9.2
30 - 34	12,522	130,367	9.6	9.4	9.8	13,122	134,809	9.7	9.6	9.9
35 and over	10,301	87,639	11.8	11.5	12.0	11,046	91,607	12.1	11.8	12.3
<b>Sex of Child</b>										
Female	24,008	258,855	9.3	9.2	9.4	24,983	263,882	9.5	9.4	9.6
Male	28,054	270,378	10.4	10.3	10.5	29,322	276,933	10.6	10.5	10.7

SOURCE: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Statistical Master Files, 2002-2003.

NOTES: <sup>1</sup> Preterm births defined as live births of less than 37 completed weeks gestation (less than 259 days); records with missing gestational age and with gestational ages of 118 days or less are excluded.

<sup>2</sup> Live births among California residents; excludes fetal deaths.

<sup>3</sup> Rate per 100 live births (percent).

<sup>4</sup> Ninety-five percent confidence interval (95% C.I.)

**Table 16-11a: Preterm Births - Less Than 37 Completed Weeks Gestation, continued**  
**California, 2000-2005**

HP2010 Objective 16-11a	2004					2005					2000-2005 Trend <sup>5</sup>
	Preterm Births <sup>1</sup>	Live Births <sup>2</sup>	Rate <sup>3</sup>	Lower C.I. <sup>4</sup>	Upper C.I. <sup>4</sup>	Preterm Births <sup>1</sup>	Live Births <sup>2</sup>	Rate <sup>3</sup>	Lower C.I. <sup>4</sup>	Upper C.I. <sup>4</sup>	
<b>Healthy People 2010 Target</b>	<b>7.6</b>					<b>7.6</b>					
<b>Statewide Total</b>	55,738	544,635	10.2	10.1	10.3	59,225	548,700	10.8	10.7	10.9	Sig. +
<b>Race-Ethnicity of Mother</b>											
African American/Black	4,130	28,679	14.4	14.0	14.8	4,482	28,756	15.6	15.1	16.0	ns
American Indian/Alaska Native	248	2,073	12.0	10.5	13.5	284	2,116	13.4	11.9	15.0	ns
Asian	5,883	62,122	9.5	9.2	9.7	6,269	61,735	10.2	9.9	10.4	Sig. +
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	330	2,543	13.0	11.6	14.4	296	2,528	11.7	10.4	13.0	ns
Hispanic/Latino	28,495	275,188	10.4	10.2	10.5	30,604	282,823	10.8	10.7	10.9	Sig. +
White	15,074	158,992	9.5	9.3	9.6	15,546	155,900	10.0	9.8	10.1	Sig. +
Multirace	741	7,162	10.3	9.6	11.1	836	7,382	11.3	10.6	12.1	Sig. +
<b>Maternal Age Group</b>											
Under 15	111	696	15.9	13.0	18.9	120	756	15.9	13.0	18.7	Sig. -
15 - 19	5,687	49,737	11.4	11.1	11.7	5,954	50,017	11.9	11.6	12.2	ns
20 - 24	12,047	124,309	9.7	9.5	9.9	12,765	125,529	10.2	10.0	10.3	Sig. +
25 - 29	13,125	141,608	9.3	9.1	9.4	14,186	143,446	9.9	9.7	10.1	ns
30 - 34	13,420	134,578	10.0	9.8	10.1	13,897	133,741	10.4	10.2	10.6	Sig. +
35 and over	11,348	93,707	12.1	11.9	12.3	12,303	95,211	12.9	12.7	13.2	Sig. +
<b>Sex of Child</b>											
Female	25,487	266,371	9.6	9.5	9.7	27,546	268,110	10.3	10.2	10.4	ns
Male	30,245	278,305	10.9	10.7	11.0	31,671	280,578	11.3	11.2	11.4	Sig. +

SOURCE: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Statistical Master Files, 2004-2005.

NOTES: <sup>1</sup> Preterm births defined as live births of less than 37 completed weeks gestation (less than 259 days); records with missing gestational age and with gestational ages of 118 days or less are excluded.

<sup>2</sup> Live births among California residents; excludes fetal deaths.

<sup>3</sup> Rate per 100 live births (percent).

<sup>4</sup> Ninety-five percent confidence interval (95% C.I.)

<sup>5</sup> Statistically significant increase (Sig. +); Statistically significant decrease (Sig. -); Not statistically significant (ns);